

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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SUBJ: PRESS REACTION TO U.S.-CHINA COMMUNIQUE

1. NON-COMMUNIST CHINESE-LANGUAGE PAPERS NOVEMBER 16 VOICED THEIR FIRST REACTION TO THE U.S.-CHINA COMMUNIQUE, ALL NOTING A JOINT ANTI-SOVIET STAND. LEFTIST DAILIES HAVE TURNED THEIR EDITORIAL

ATTENTION ELSEWHERE.

2. THE INDEPENDENT MING PAO SAW THE COMMUNIQUE AS INDICATING A JOINT U.S.-CHINESE STAND AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION. PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT, THE PAPER SAID, WAS THE STATEMENT OF THE TWO SIDES' OPPOSITION TO ANY COUNTRY SEEKING HEGEMONY IN "ANY OTHER PART OF THE WORLD" BESIDES THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

3. MING PAO COMMENTED: "LAST YEAR'S COMMUNIQUE SAID THAT NEITHER THE UNITED STATES NOR CHINA WOULD SEEK HEGEMONY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION, AND THAT EACH WAS OPPOSED TO THE SOVIET UNION SEEKING HEGEMONY IN THIS REGION. NOW THEY HAVE EXTENDED THE SCOPE TO INCLUDE THE ENTIRE WORLD. IN THE CONTEXT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS,

THIS REFERS TO THE MIDDLE EAST, ESPECIALLY TO THE SOVIET ATTEMPT NOT

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LONG AGO TO AIRLIFT LARGE NUMBER OF TROOPS TO MIDEAST COUNTRIES,

AN ATTEMPT LATER ABANDONED AS A RESULT OF THE U.S. NATION-WIDE ALERT. PEKING APPARENTLY BACKS THE U.S. MOVE.

4. "IF WE EXTEND OUR VIEW TO A GREATER DISTANCE, IT ALSO IMPLIES OPPOSITION TO SIVJET CONTROL OF THE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES....

5. "THE UNITED STATES HAD ALWAYS PLEDGED TO MAINTAIN NEUTRALITY IN THE SINO-SOVIET CONFRONTATION AND NEVER TO TAKE SIDES. WITH THESE TEN CHARACTERS (OR ANY PART OF THE WORLD) ADDED TO THE COMMUNIQUE, IT IS EVIDENTLY FAVORING THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS....

6. "TODAY IT IS THE SOVIET UNION THAT IS EXERTING ITSELF TO ESTABLISH

HEGEMONY EVERYWHERE, AND CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE OPENLY STATED THEIR OPPOSITION IN THE COMMUNIQUE. MAO TSETUNG AND KISSINGER HAD A LONG TALK LASTING THREE HOURS AND 45 MINUTES. THE CONVERSATION NATURALLY OWED ITS 'FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE' AND 'FFAR-SIGHTED' CONTENT CHIEFLY TO THEIR UNANIMOUS CONDEMNATION OF THE KREMLIN'S 'HEGEMONY FACTORY.'"

7. THE PRO-ROC EXPRESS, IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "KISSINGER MADE NO 'BREAKTHROUGH,' ALSO NOTED THAT, AS A RESULT OF RECENT SOVIET MOVES CONCERNING THE MIDDLE EAST, KISSINGER WAS MORE WILLING TO ECHO THE CHINESE COMMUNIST POSITION AGAINST MOSCOW. REFERRING TO THE PHRASE "NOT NEGOTIATING ON BEHALF OF THIRD PARTIES," EXPRESS

SURMISED THAT KISSINGER HAD FAILED IN A BID TO SETTLE THE CAMBODIAN QUESTION. EXPRESS FURTHER OBSERVED THAT, BARRING "SECRET AGREEMENTS," NO SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN MADE IN WASHINGTON-PEKING BILATERAL RELATIONS.

8. THE PRO-ROC TIN TIN YAT PAO POINTED TO A POSSIBILITY THAT THE COMMON STAND TAKING BY CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES MIGHT PROVOKE MOSCOW INTO PUSHING THE SITUATION OF "INTENSE CHANGE" TOWARD PEKING. "WHATEVER THE COMMUNIQUE SAYS, THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN PRESENT U.S. POLICY TOWARD THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA. THE ONLY THING THAT MAY BE AFFECTED IS THE DANGEROUS SITUATION BETWEEN THE CHINESE AND SOVIET COMMUNISTS," TIN TIN CONCLUDED.

9. THE KMT-OWNED HONG KONG TIMES STEERED CLEAR OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMUNIQUE'S REFERENCE TO TAIWAN. THE PAPER COMMENTED THAT, BY JOINING PEKING IN DENOUNCING HEGEMONY "IN ANY...PART OF THE WORLD," THE UNITED STATES HELPED THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS TO "BOOST THEIR INTERNATIONAL STANDING." "IN THE EYES OF THE RUSSIANS, THIS IS POLITICAL EXPANSION, WHICH IS MOREOVER DIRECTED AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION. WE BELIEVE BREZHNEV AND HIS COLLEAGUES WILL NOT ACCEPT IT SILENTLY, BUT WILL STEP UP THEIR MAPPING OF STRATEGY TO FIND

COUNTER-MEASURE," HONG KONG TIMES SPECULATED. SPEAKING OF
INCREASED EXCHANGE, THE PAPER ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES OF SUPPLYING
IMPORTANT MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE CHINESE
COMMUNISTS THROUGH TRADE, AND MAINTAINED THAT THEIR CULTURAL
EXCHANGE MERELY SERVED A SYMBOLIC PURPOSE.
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